



No. 107 Rs. 3.50

PRADYUMNA



THE SON OF KRISHNA AND RUKMINI

Daksha, Shiva's father-in-law, had never given his ascetic son-in-law the respect due to him. Sati, Daksha's daughter, unable to bear the continued insults meted out to them, consumed her body in a fire generated by her own powers. The grief-stricken Shiva after punishing Daksha, forgave him and then entered his grove on the Himalayas to meditate.

Meanwhile, Tarakasura, an enemy of the Devas, invaded heaven. When the Devas went to Brahma for help he told them that Sati, reborn as Parvati, the daughter of Himavan, was destined to marry Shiva. The son born of Shiva would lead them to victory over the evil Asura. Impatient to win back his kingdom, Indra, King of the Devas, sent Kama, the God of love, with Rati, his wife, to awake Shiva to the charms of Parvati. Kama succeeded. But an enraged Shiva burnt him to ashes with the fire of his wrath. How the bereft Rati was reunited with her beloved husband is retold in the story of Pradyumna who was Kama reborn.

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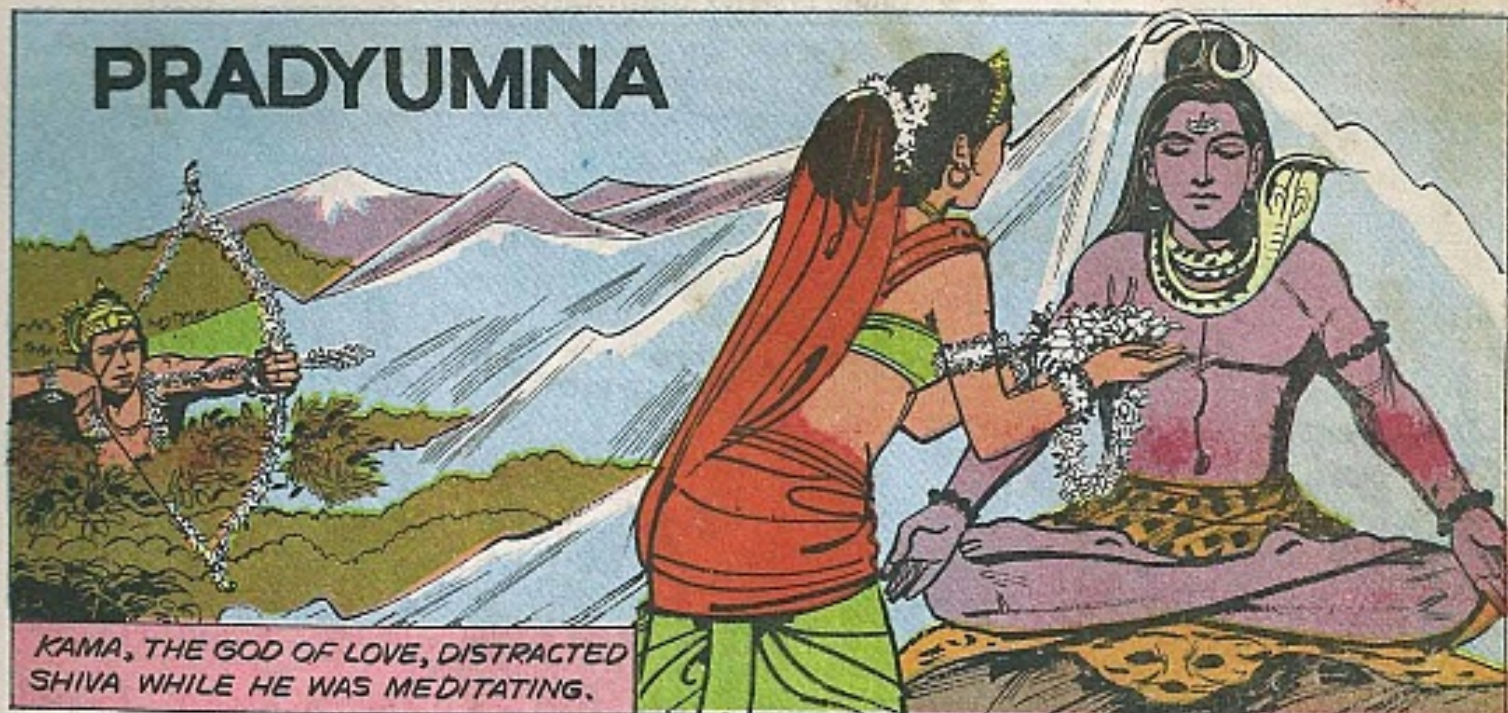
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PRADYUMNA



KAMA, THE GOD OF LOVE, DISTRACTED SHIVA WHILE HE WAS MEDITATING.

SHIVA WAS ENRAGED.

WHO HAS
DARED TO
DISTURB ME?

WHEN HE SAW THAT KAMA WAS THE CULPRIT,
HE OPENED HIS THIRD EYE AND, TO THE
HORROR OF RATI, KAMA'S WIFE, BURNT THAT
GOD TO CINDERS.

NO! NO!



BUT UNKNOWN TO RATI, KAMA WAS REBORN AS PRADYUMNA, THE ELDEST SON OF KRISHNA AND RUKMINI. THE PEOPLE OF DWARAKA REJOICED.



MY SON, YOU
SHALL GROW
UP TO BE A
VALIANT HERO
LIKE YOUR
FATHER.

A WEEK LATER, AN EVIL ASURA
CALLED SHAMBARA HAD A DREAM.

BEWARE, WICKED
SHAMBARA. YOU
SHALL BE KILLED
BY PRADYUMNA,
KRISHNA'S SON.

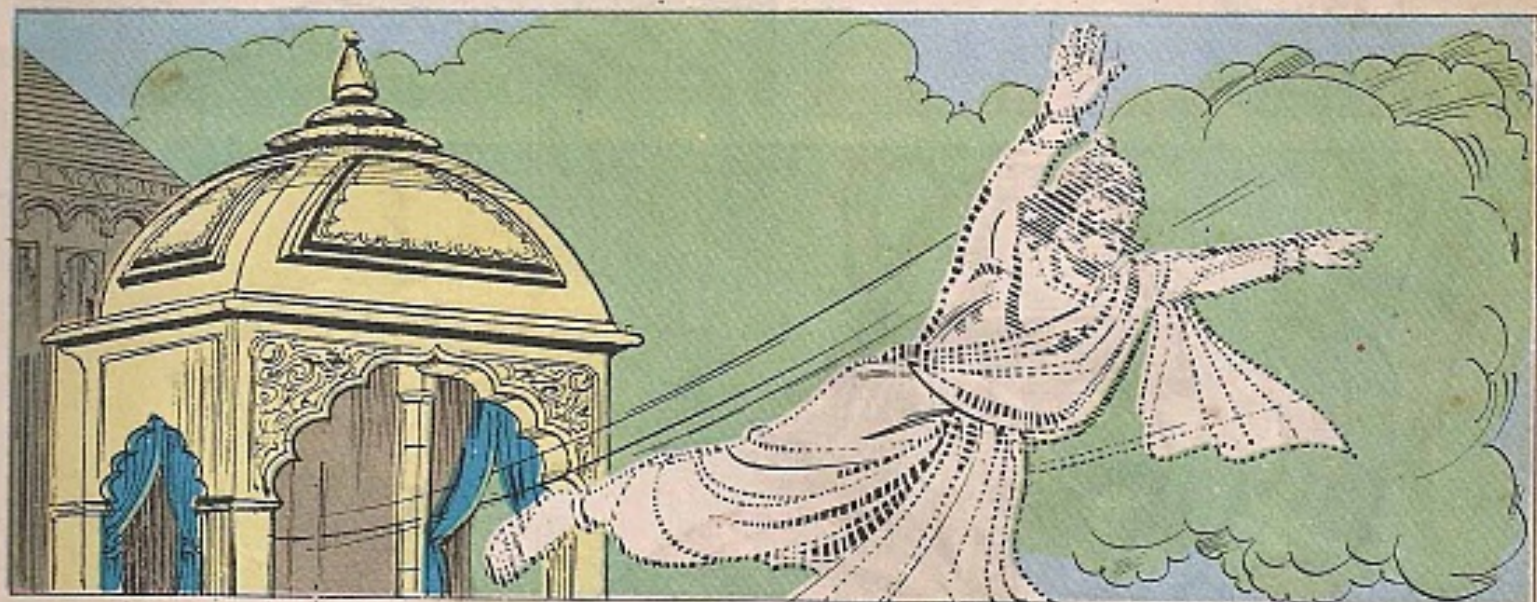
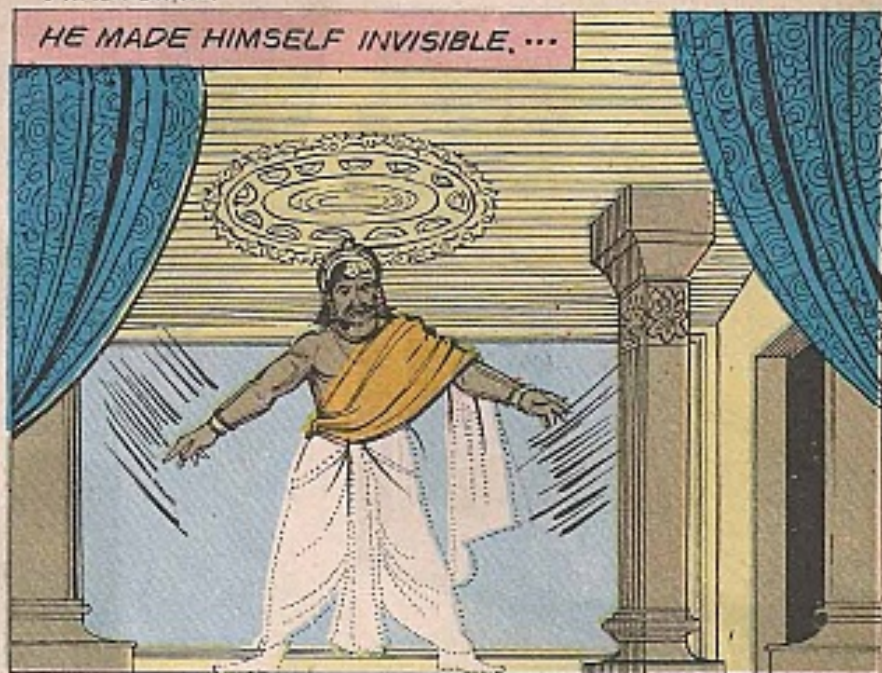


BUT SHAMBARA WAS NOT
PERTURBED.



HA! HA! BEFORE
THAT HAPPENS
I SHALL KILL
PRADYUMNA.

HE MADE HIMSELF INVISIBLE, ...



...AND FLOATED THROUGH THE AIR.

I SHALL
FINISH HIM
BEFORE HE
TURNS IN
HIS CRADLE.





HE SOON REACHED KRISHNA'S PALACE AT DWARAKA.

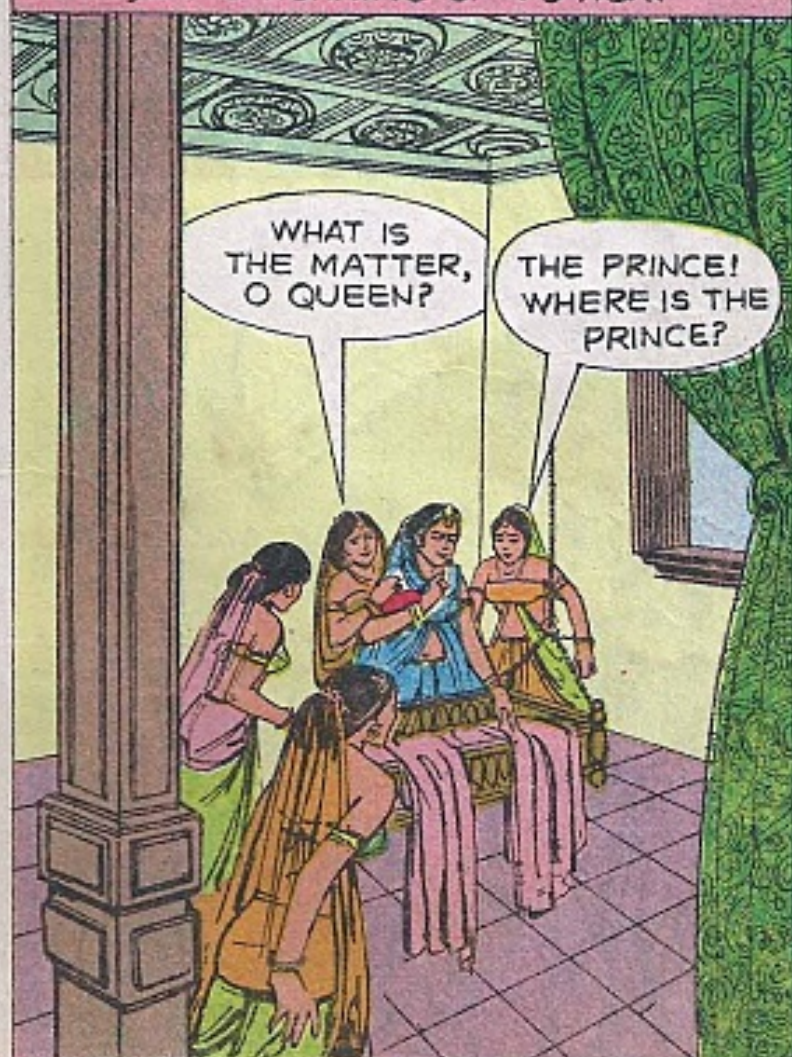


...
'SO YOU ARE THE
BRAT DESTINED TO
KILL THE GREAT
SHAMBARA? HA! HA!

A LITTLE LATER, RUKMINI SUDDENLY WOKE UP.



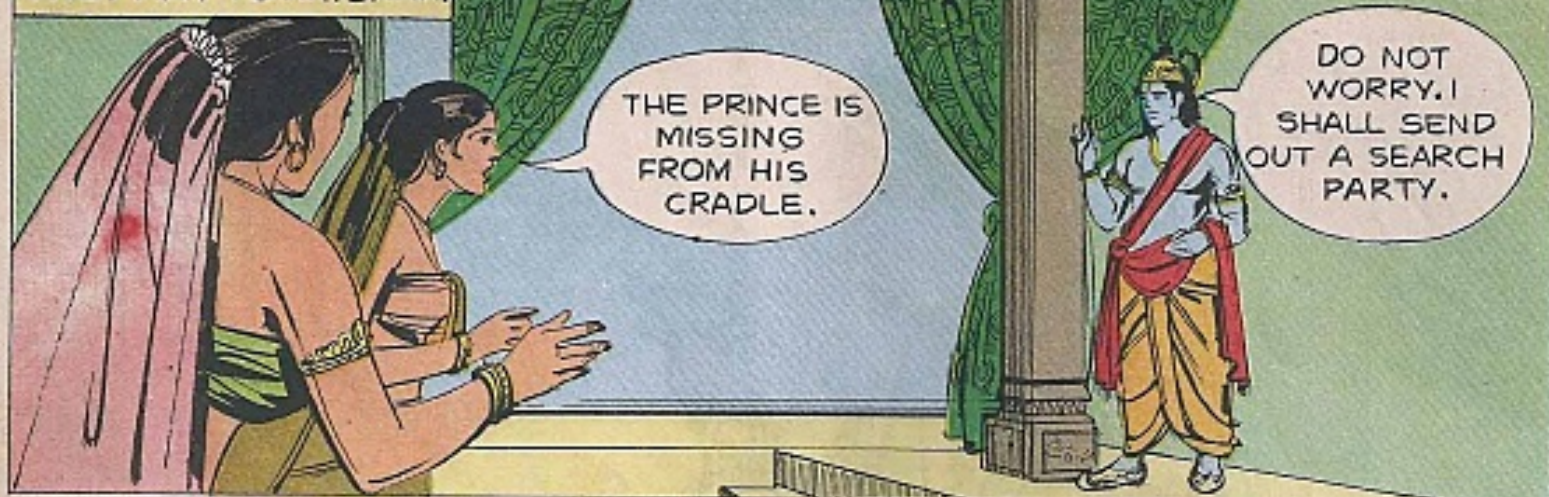
THE SLEEPING MAIDS, WOKEN BY HER CRIES, CAME RUNNING UP TO HER.



RUKMINI WAS SO UPSET SHE COULD BARELY SPEAK.



THEY RAN TO KRISHNA.



KRISHNA THE ALL-KNOWING REMAINED UNPERTURBED.



BY THEN, SHAMBARA WAS FAR, FAR AWAY FROM DWARAKA.



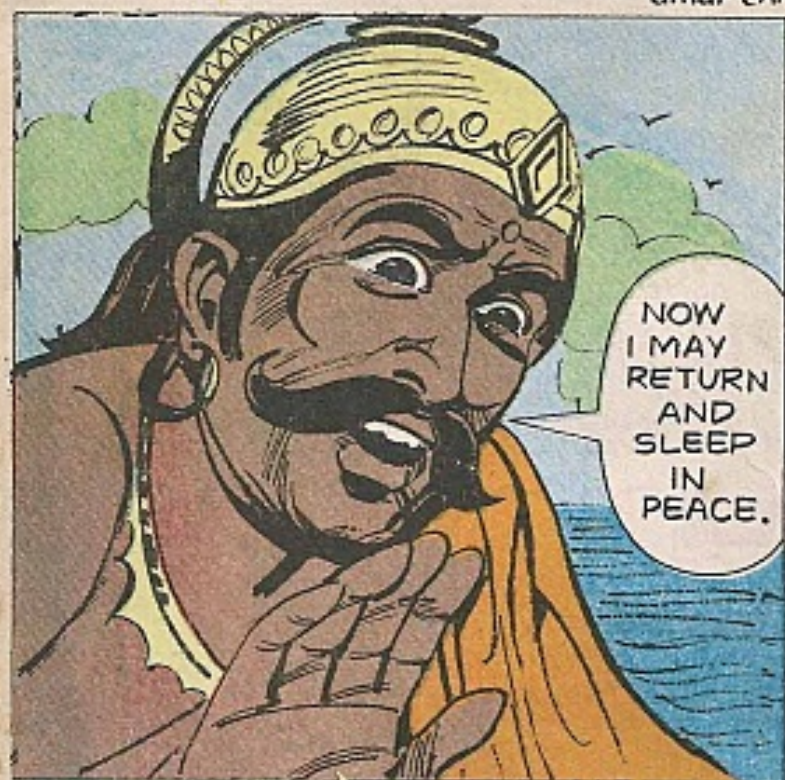


THEN SHAMBARA FLEW OVER THE OCEAN...

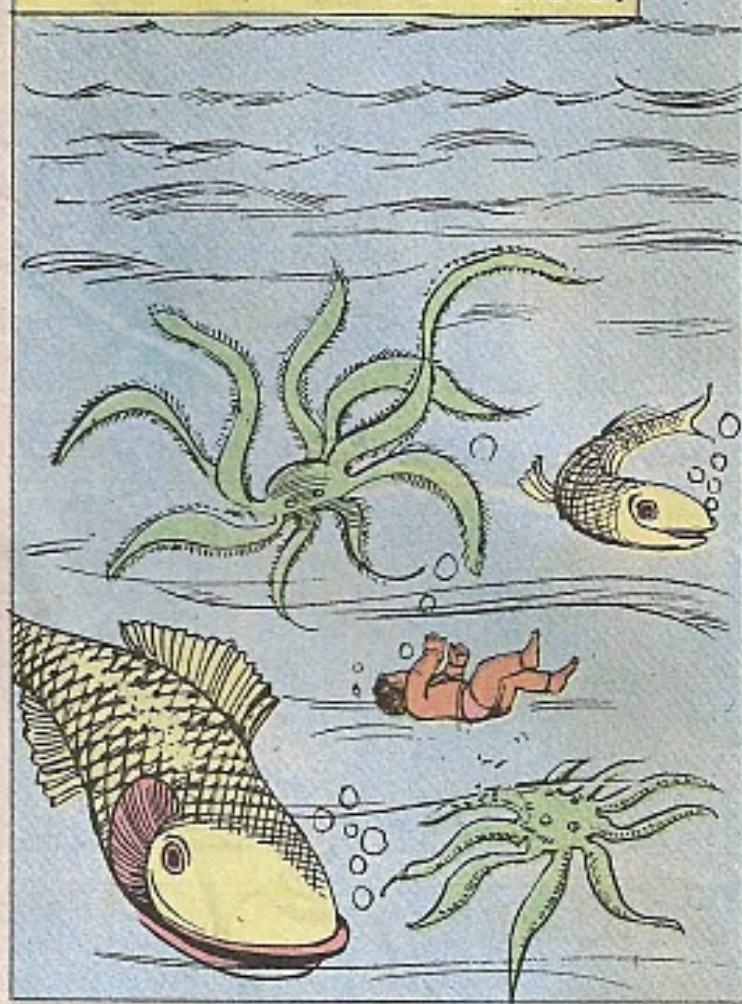


...AND FLUNG PRADYUMNA INTO ITS DEPTHS.

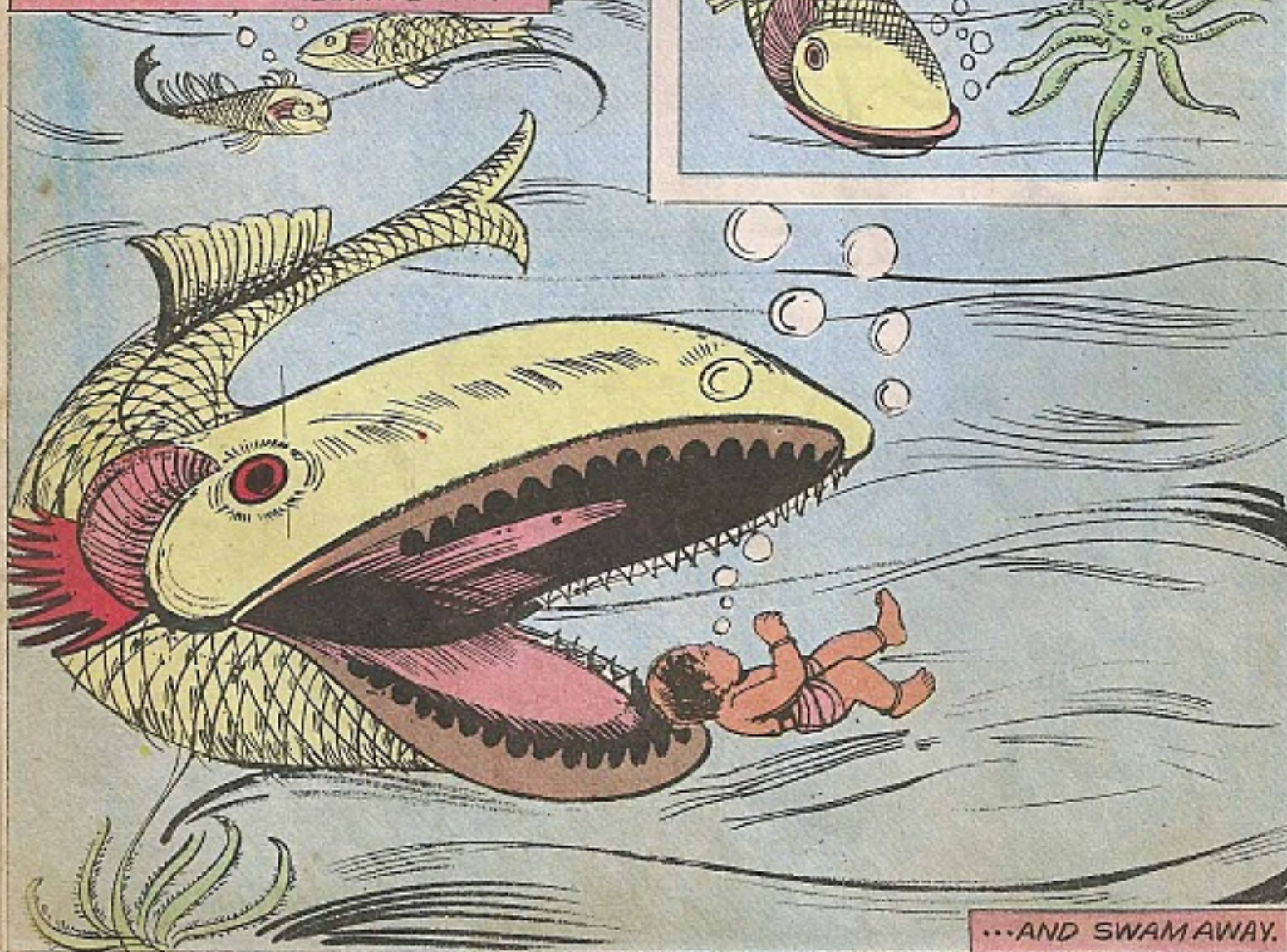




BUT PRADYUMNA DID NOT DIE.



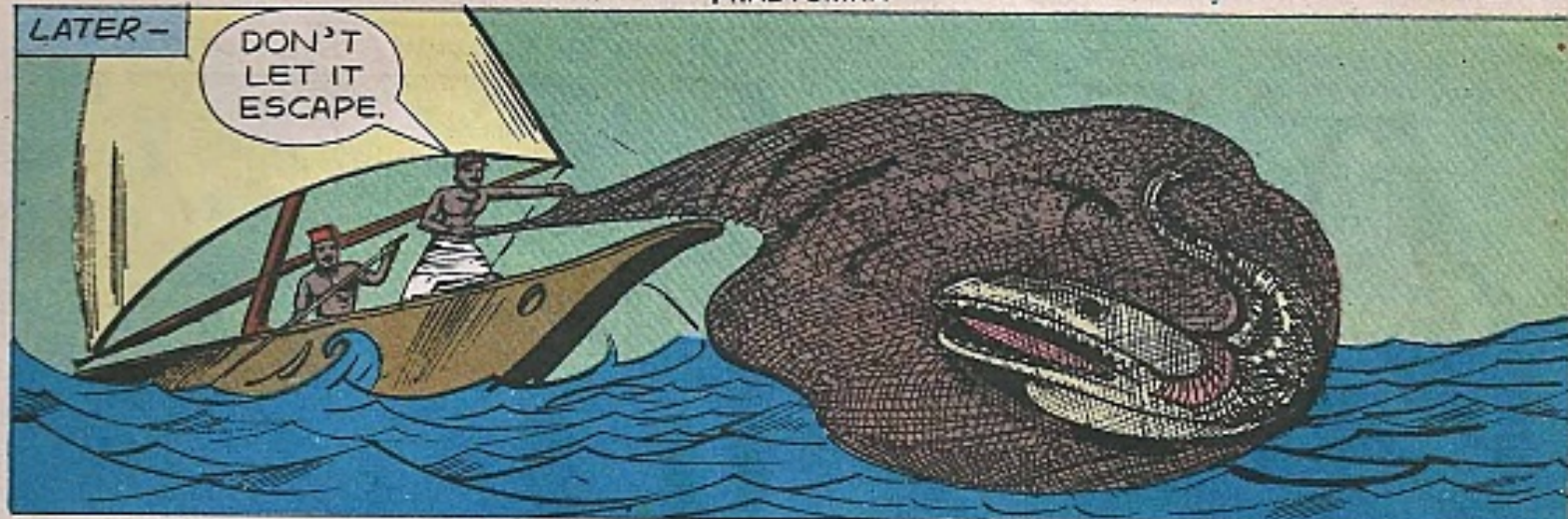
A LARGE FISH SWALLOWED HIM...



...AND SWAM AWAY.

LATER—

DON'T
LET IT
ESCAPE.

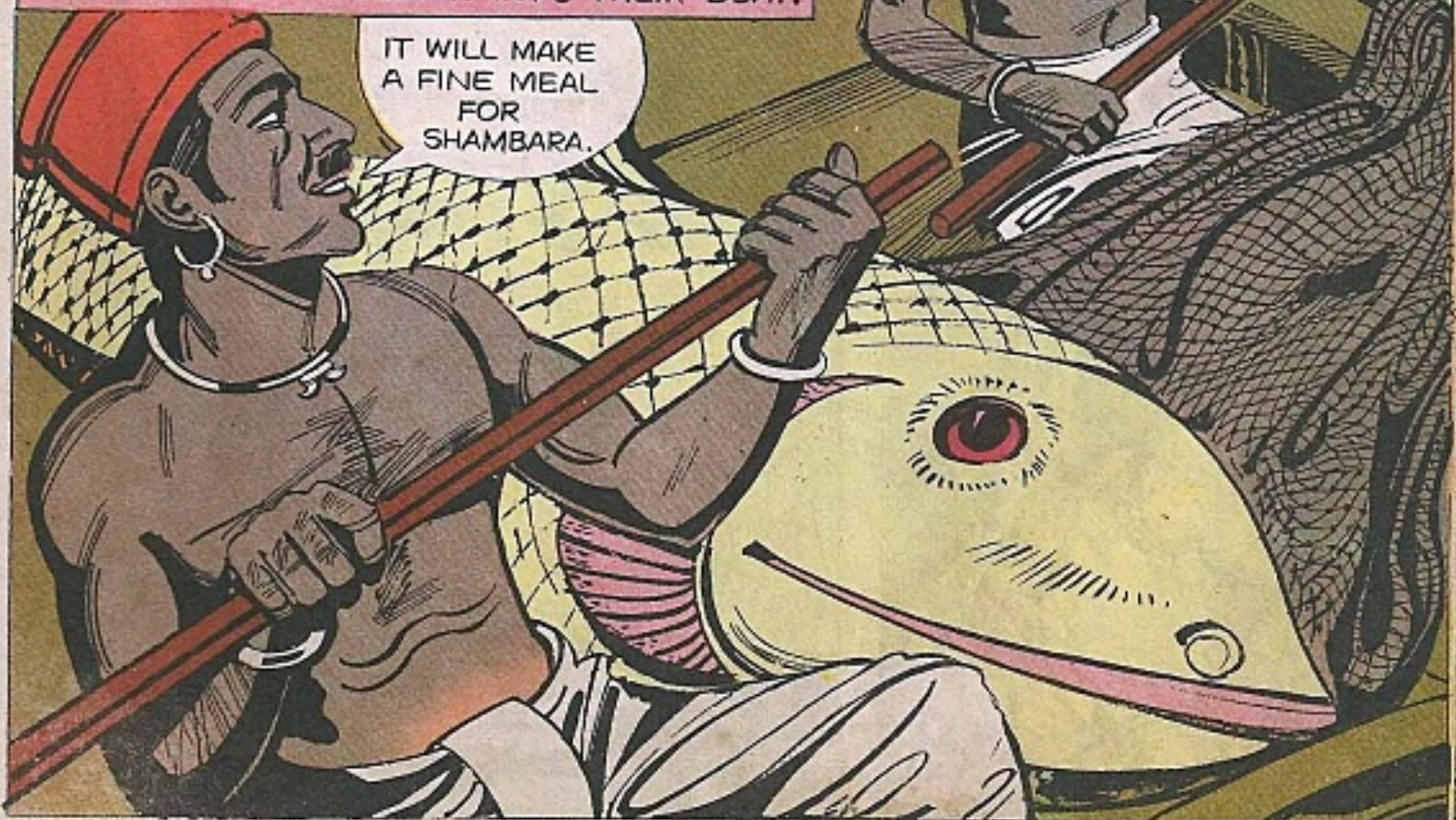


THE POOR CREATURE STRUGGLED
HARD, BUT IN VAIN.



THE FISHERMEN HAULED IT INTO THEIR BOAT.

IT WILL MAKE
A FINE MEAL
FOR
SHAMBARA.



MEANWHILE RATI, THE BEREFT WIFE OF KAMA, LIT A PYRE AND WAS ABOUT TO ENTER IT WHEN...



...A HEAVENLY VOICE STOPPED HER.



... KAMA SHALL BE YOURS ONCE MORE.



WHAT SHOULD I DO MEANWHILE?



DISGUISE YOURSELF
AS A MAID AND
SEEK WORK IN THE
KITCHEN OF THE
ASURA, SHAMBARA.

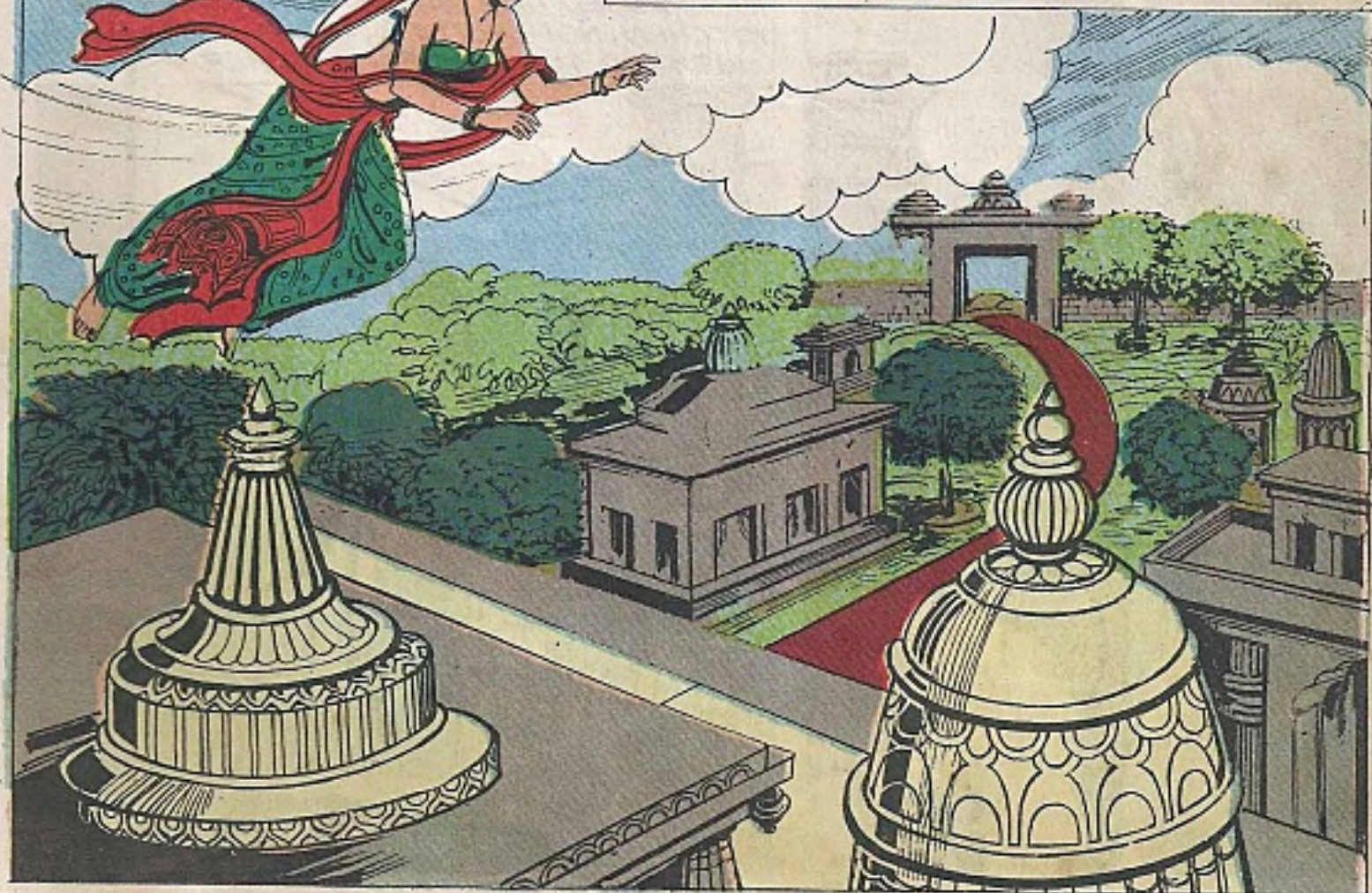


SO RATI DISGUISED HERSELF AS A MAID
AND...



...FLEW TOWARDS SHAMBARA'S
PALACE.

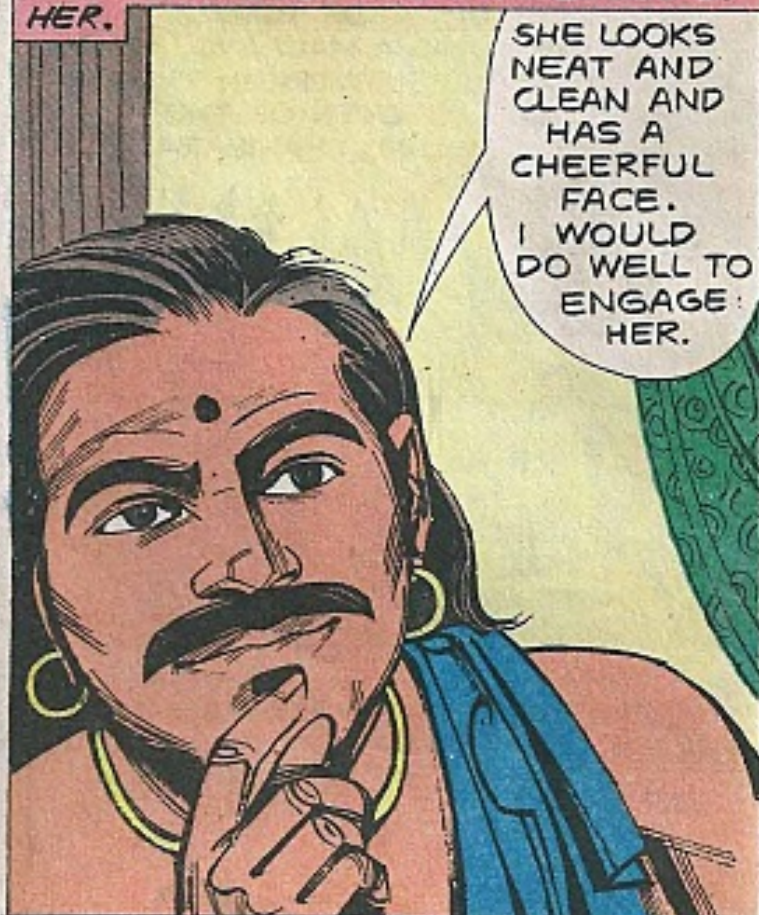
I CANNOT BELIEVE
THAT MY DEAR
DEAD HUSBAND
WILL BE MINE
ONCE MORE.



AT THE PALACE KITCHEN—



THE HEAD COOK WAS IMPRESSED BY HER.

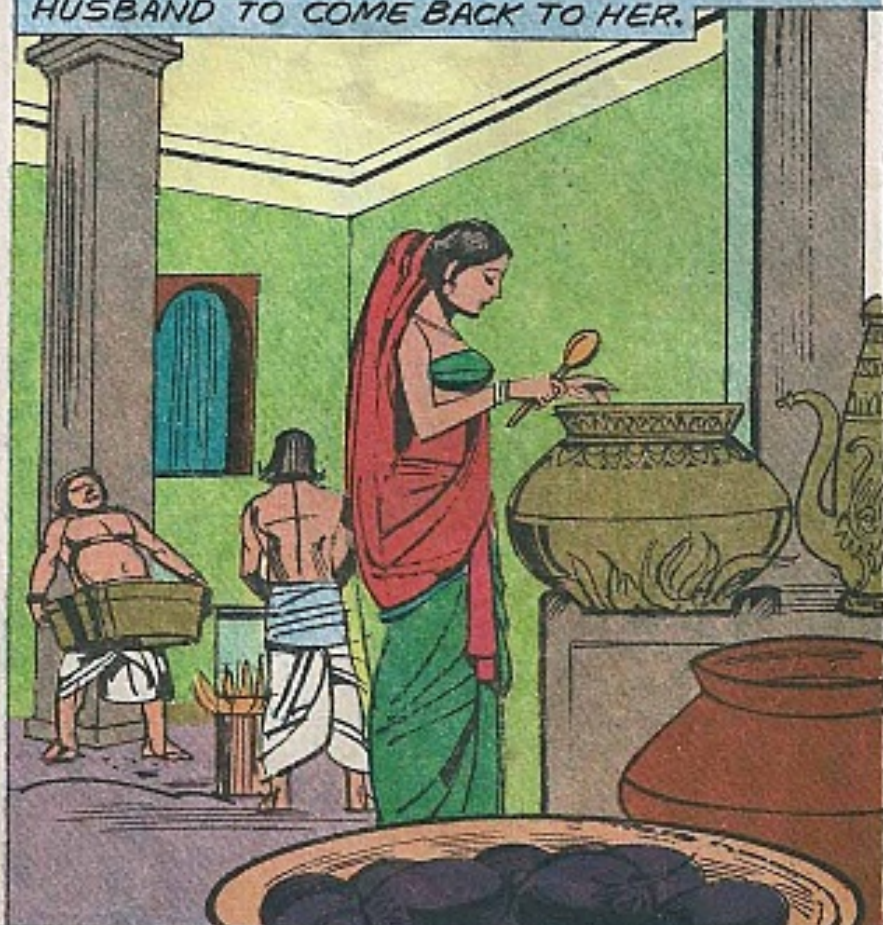


THE CHIEF MAID IS ILL. YOU MAY WORK IN HER PLACE.

I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU.



RATI PASSED HER DAYS IN SHAMBARA'S KITCHEN, HOPEFULLY WAITING FOR HER HUSBAND TO COME BACK TO HER.



ONE DAY THERE WAS A COMMOTION IN A CORNER OF THE KITCHEN.



WHAT IS THE MATTER?
OH! WHAT A LARGE FISH?

THESE FISHERMEN HAVE BROUGHT IT FOR SHAMBARA.



I SHALL COOK IT FOR HIS DINNER TONIGHT.



HE BEGAN TO CUT THE FISH.



WHEN HE SLIT OPEN THE STOMACH OF THE FISH, TO HIS ASTONISHMENT, A BEAUTIFUL BABY GURGLED AT HIM.

WH-
WHAT IS
THIS!

AH! WHAT A
BEAUTIFUL
BABY.



UTTERLY CONFOUNDED, HE TURNED
TO MAYAVATI.

PLEASE TAKE
HIM AND LOOK
AFTER HIM.
PERHAPS
SOME DAY HIS
PARENTS MIGHT
COME
FOR HIM.



POOR, POOR
BABY. WHOSE
CHILD ARE YOU?
HOW DID YOU
COME HERE?
WHAT DOES THE
FUTURE HOLD
FOR YOU?



AS MAYAVATI WONDERED THUS, SAGE NARADA SUDDENLY APPEARED.

WELCOME, VENERABLE SAGE. YOU WILL CERTAINLY BE ABLE TO SATISFY MY CURIOSITY.



WHO IS THIS BABY AND...

HE IS NONE OTHER THAN YOUR HUSBAND KAMA!



MAYA COULD SCARCELY HIDE HER EXCITEMENT.

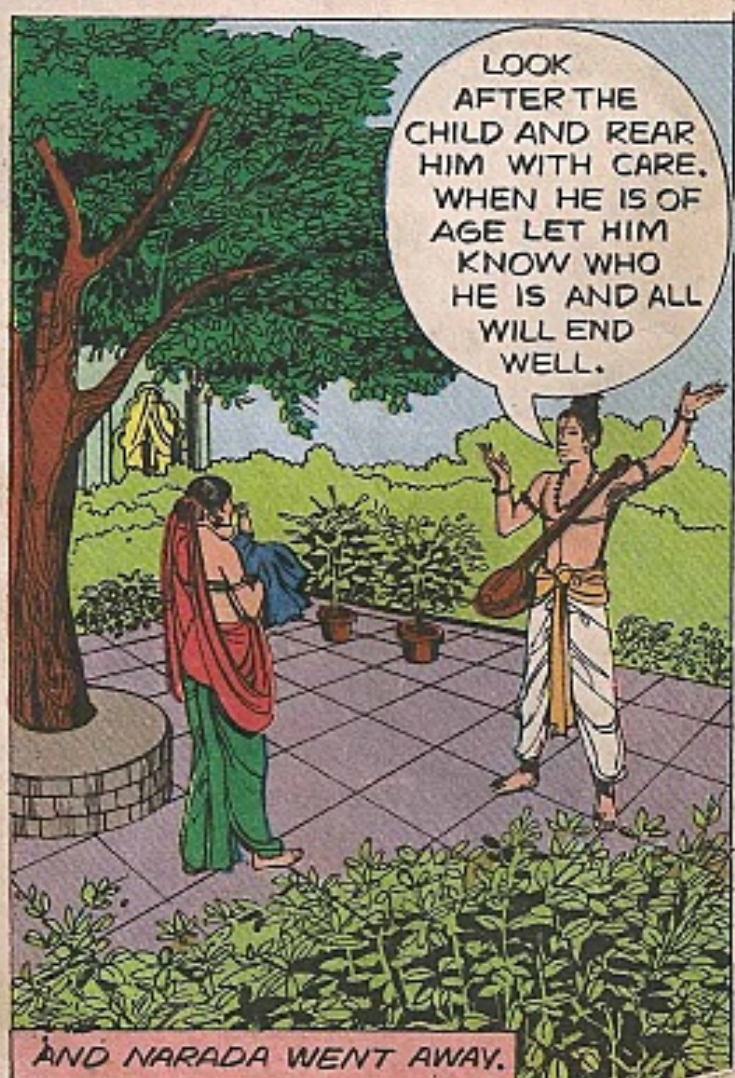
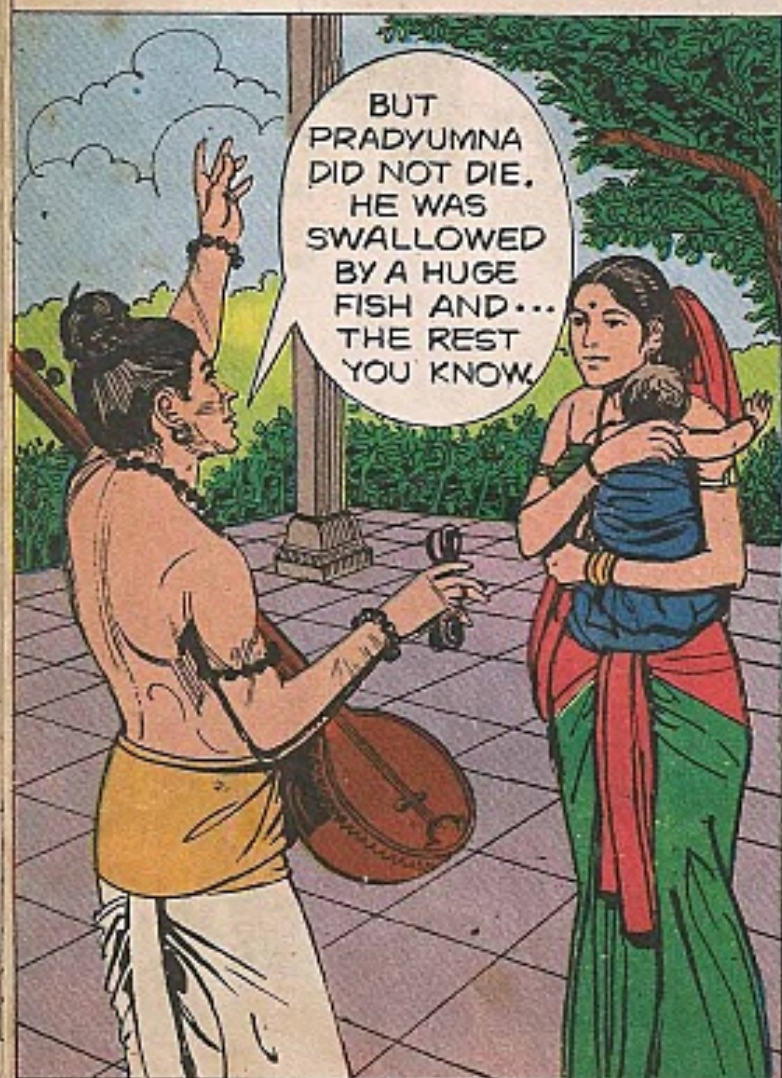
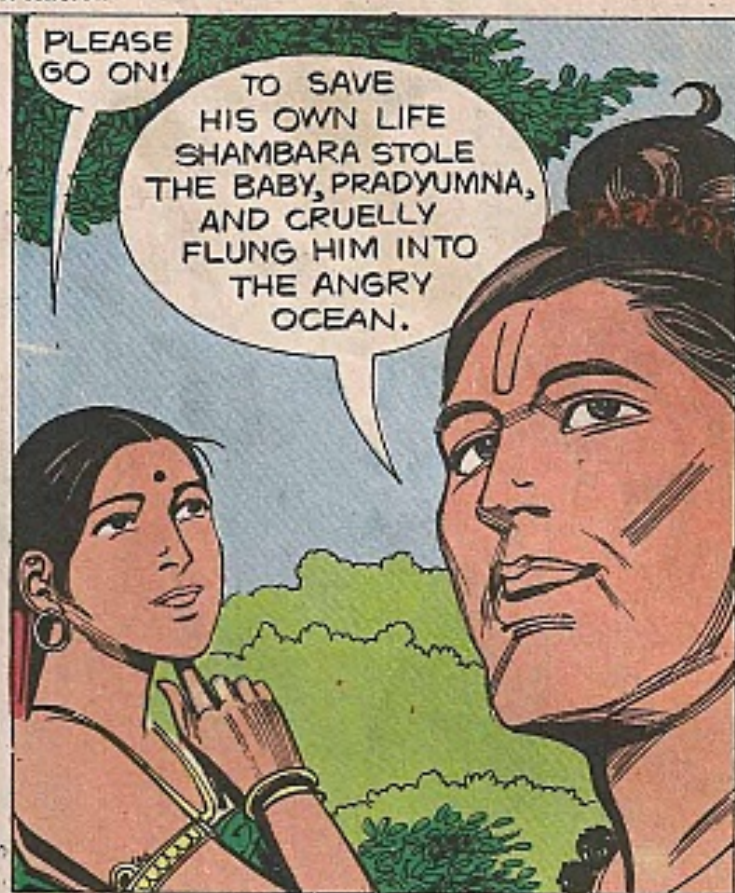
BUT— BUT— HOW...



AT THAT TIME, RUKMINI WAS ABOUT TO HAVE A BABY. SO KAMA WAS GRANTED HIS WISH.

WHEN KAMA WAS BURNT TO ASHES THAT FATEFUL DAY, HE BEGGED SHIVA THAT HE MIGHT BE REBORN AS KRISHNA'S SON.





PRADYUMNA BECAME A FAVOURITE IN THE KITCHEN.

I SHALL
FEED HIM
HIS LUNCH
TODAY.

NO,
I SHALL.
YOU GAVE
HIM HIS
MORNING
MEAL.



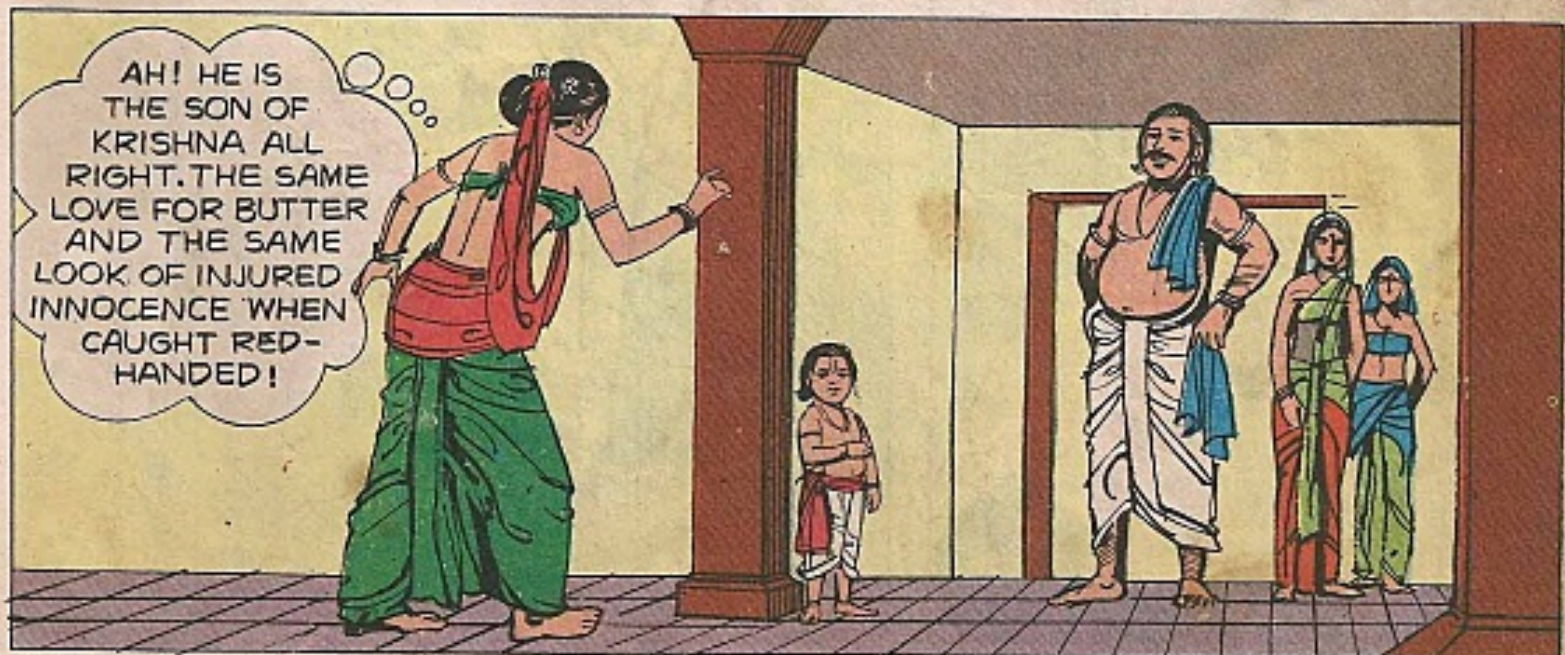
HE SOON GREW INTO A MISCHIEVOUS BOY.

WHERE IS THE
BUTTER I HAD
SET ASIDE
FOR
SHAMBARA?

I DID NOT
TOUCH IT. I
KNOW NOTHING
ABOUT IT.



AH! HE IS
THE SON OF
KRISHNA ALL
RIGHT. THE SAME
LOVE FOR BUTTER
AND THE SAME
LOOK OF INJURED
INNOCENCE WHEN
CAUGHT RED-
HANDED!

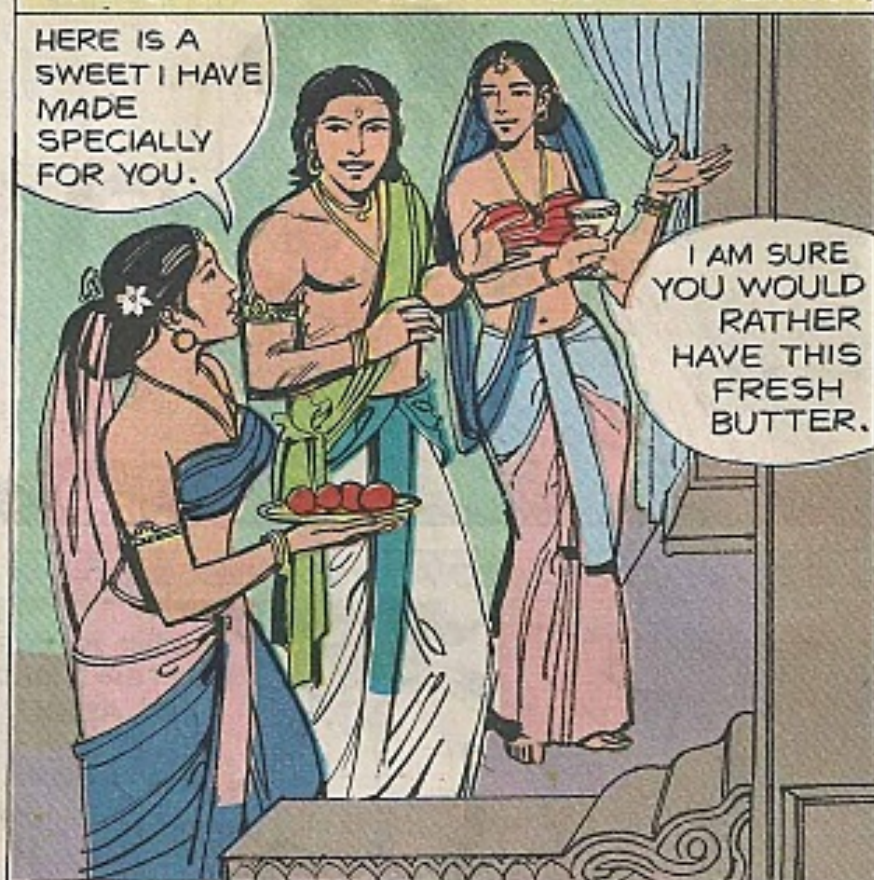


SO THE DAYS PASSED AND PRADYUMNA GREW UP INTO A HANDSOME YOUNG MAN.



SO CHARMING WAS HE, THAT ALL THE MAIDS IN THE KITCHEN FOUGHT FOR HIS ATTENTION.

HERE IS A SWEET I HAVE MADE SPECIALLY FOR YOU.



I AM SURE YOU WOULD RATHER HAVE THIS FRESH BUTTER.

MAYAVATI WAS ANXIOUS.

I THINK IT IS TIME I TOLD HIM WHO HE REALLY IS.



SO SHE CALLED PRADYUMNA ASIDE ONE DAY.

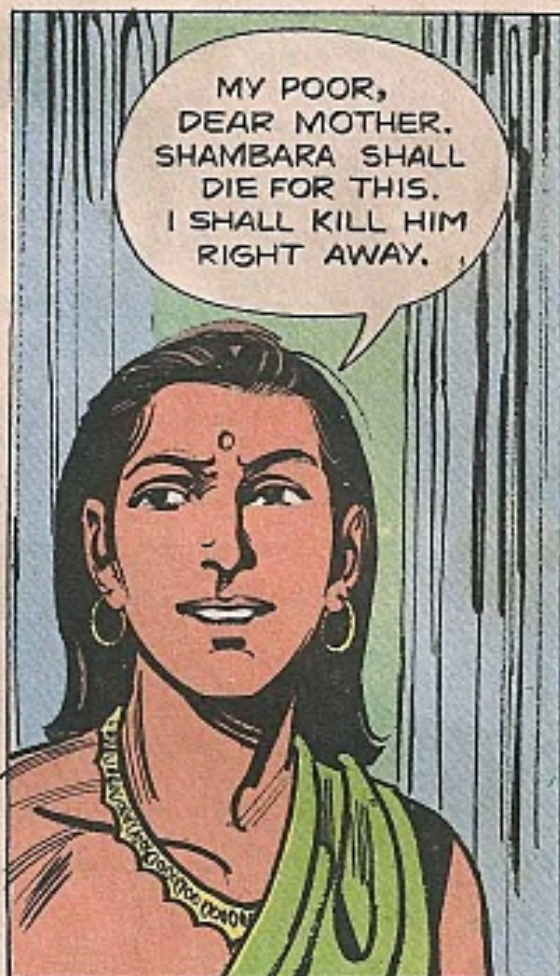
YOU ARE A YOUNG MAN NOW AND SHOULD NOT WASTE YOUR TIME AMONG THE KITCHEN MAIDS.







RUKMINI, YOUR MOTHER, STILL WEEPS FOR YOU. SHE THINKS YOU ARE DEAD.



MY POOR, DEAR MOTHER. SHAMBARA SHALL DIE FOR THIS. I SHALL KILL HIM RIGHT AWAY.



PATIENCE, PRADYUMNA. I SHALL TEACH YOU CERTAIN SPELLS THAT YOU WILL NEED TO COUNTER SHAMBARA'S MAGICAL POWERS.

AND MAYAVATI BEGAN TEACHING PRADYUMNA.



HE WAS A CLEVER PUPIL AND SOON MASTERED THE SPELLS.

TRY AND FIND ME BY USING THE CHARM TO MAKE THE INVISIBLE, VISIBLE.



MAYAVATI, BY HER MAGICAL POWERS, PROVIDED HIM WITH ALL THAT HE WOULD NEED.



HE WENT TO SHAMBARA'S PALACE AND BEGAN TAUNTING HIM.

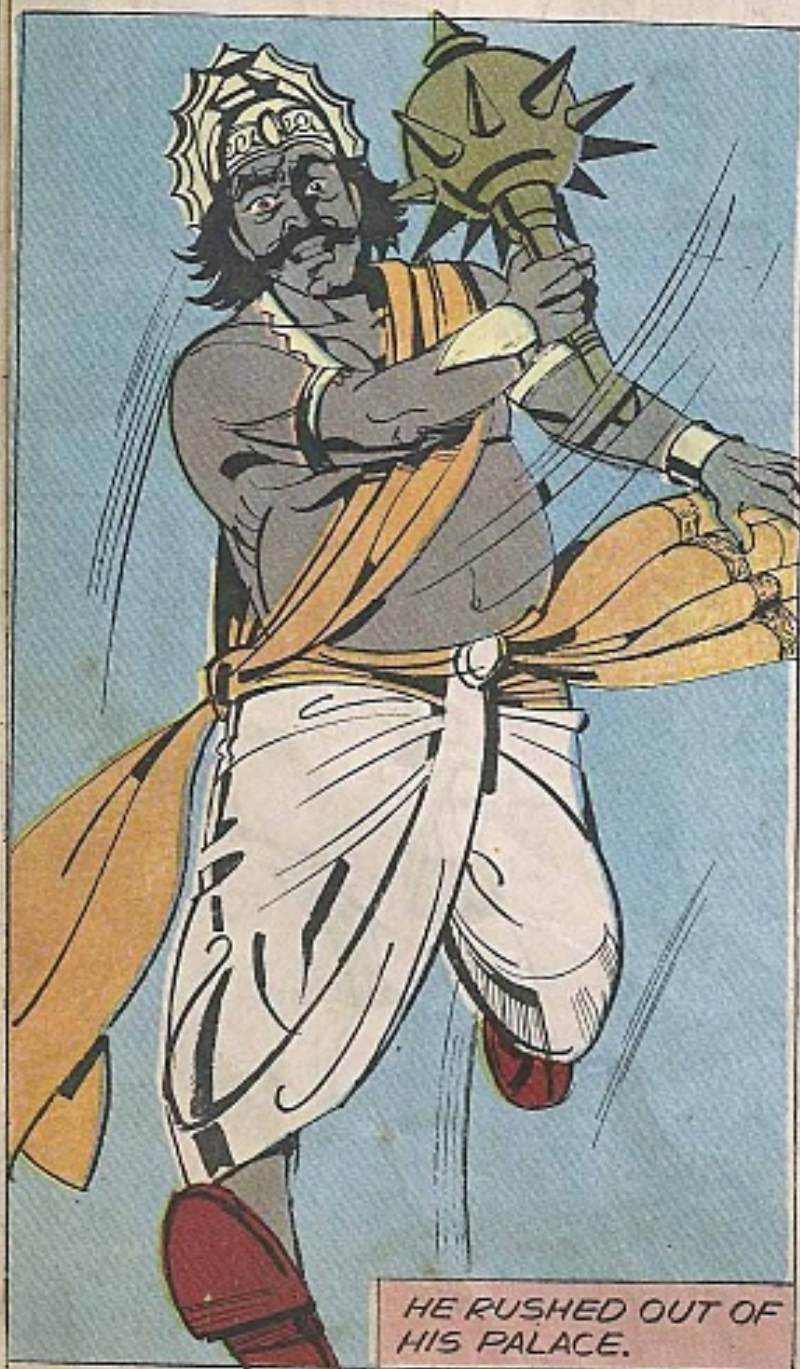
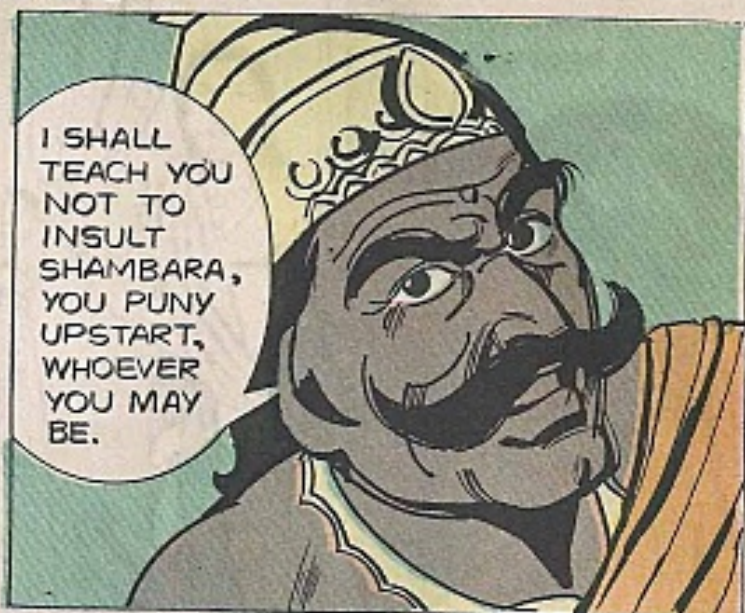


SHAMBARA BURNED WITH RAGE WHEN HE HEARD THE TAUNTS.



WHO COULD HAVE DISCLOSED MY SECRET?

I SHALL TEACH YOU NOT TO INSULT SHAMBARA, YOU PUNY UPSTART, WHOEVER YOU MAY BE.



HE RUSHED OUT OF HIS PALACE.



A MIGHTY COMBAT ENSUED BETWEEN THE TWO.



WITH A THUNDEROUS ROAR SHAMBARA SWUNG HIS MACE AT PRADYUMNA.



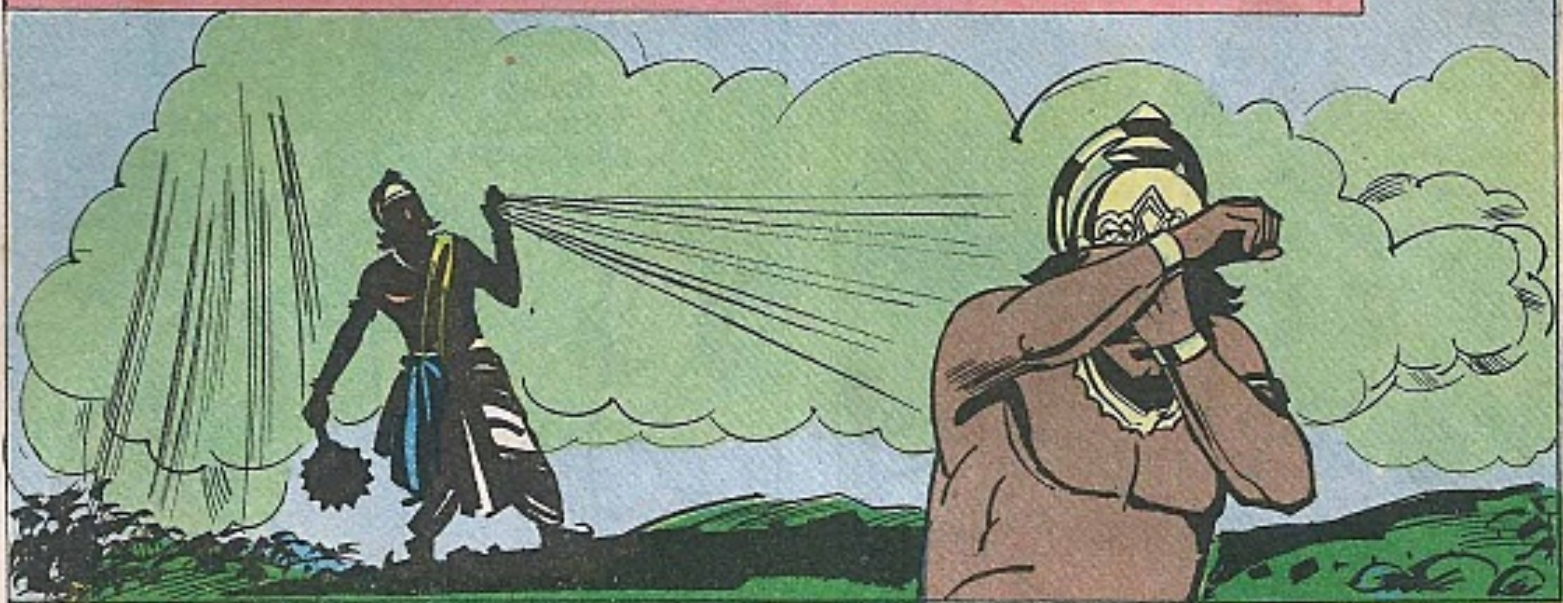
BUT PRADYUMNA WARDED OFF
THE BLOW WITH HIS OWN MACE.



BUT RESORTING TO MAGIC, SHAMBARA SUDDENLY BECAME INVISIBLE.



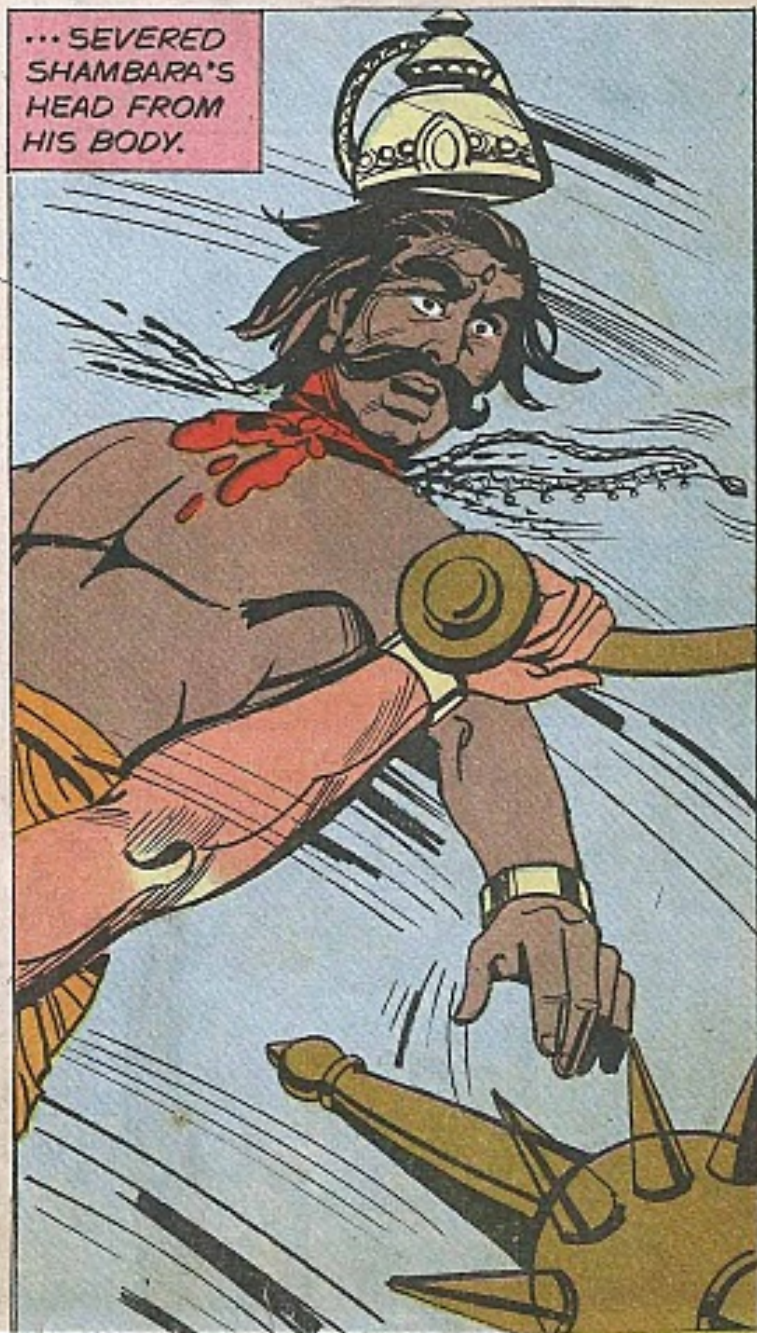
PRADYUMNA QUICKLY CAST THE SPELL THAT MAYAVATI HAD TAUGHT HIM...



... AND DRAWING HIS SWORD ...



... SEVERED SHAMBARA'S HEAD FROM HIS BODY.





...THEN HE WENT TO MAYAVATI.

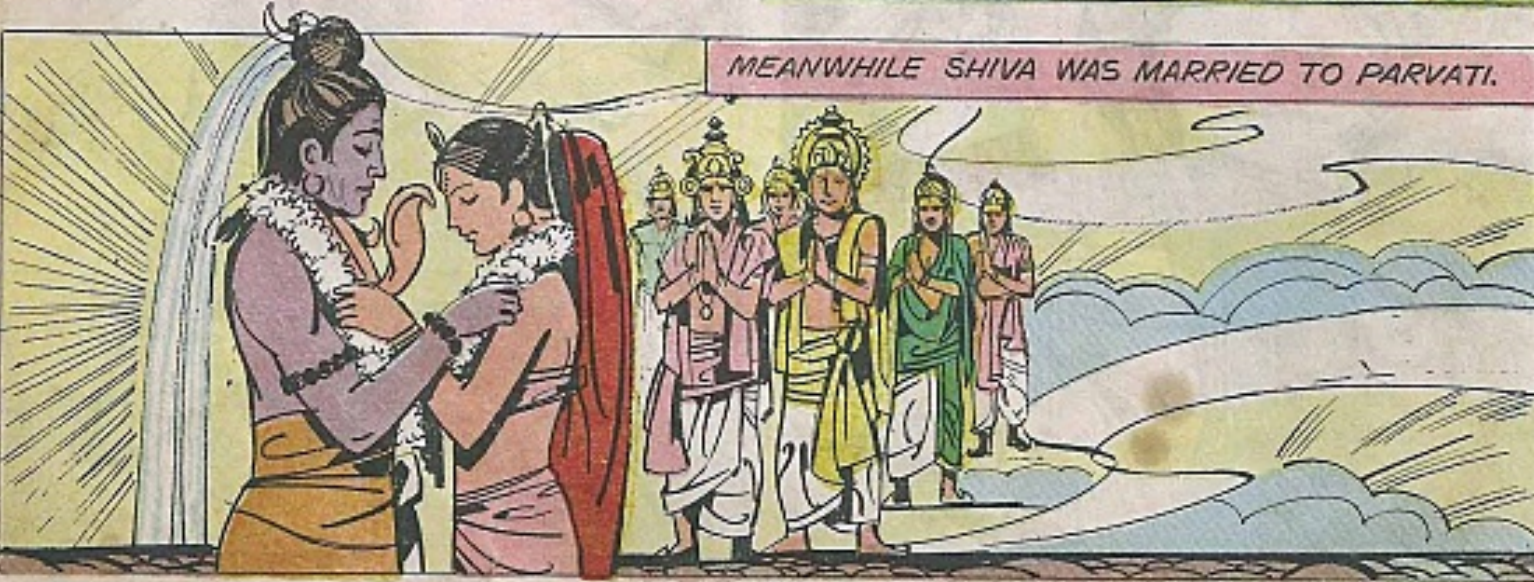


MAYAVATI TOOK PRADYUMNA BY THE HAND AND SOARING INTO THE SKY...

...PROCEEDED TOWARDS DWARAKA.

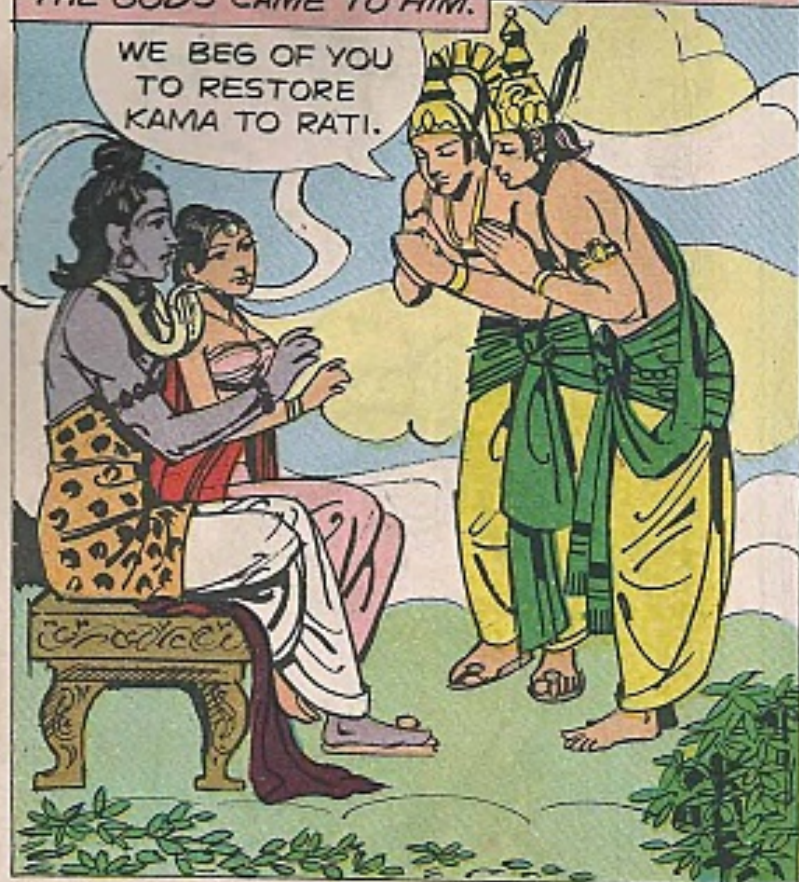


MEANWHILE SHIVA WAS MARRIED TO PARVATI.



THE CEREMONY WAS HARDLY OVER WHEN THE GODS CAME TO HIM.

WE BEG OF YOU
TO RESTORE
KAMA TO RATI.



KAMA SHALL
CERTAINLY
BE RESTORED
TO RATI.
I TOO AM NOW
HIS SLAVE.



AT THAT MOMENT IN DWARAKA, PRADYUMNA
AND MAYAVATI ENTERED THE INNER APART-
MENTS OF KRISHNA'S PALACE.

THE LADIES MISTOOK HIM TO BE
KRISHNA.

THE LORD
HAS
COME!

WHO IS THE
BEAUTIFUL
LADY
WITH HIM?



RUKMINI, WHO KNEW IT WAS NOT KRISHNA, WAS PERPLEXED.

WHO COULD THIS COUPLE BE?



MY OWN SON, IF HE WERE ALIVE, WOULD BE ABOUT THE SAME AGE AS THE BOY.



SHE STEPPED FORWARD.

IN FACT HE LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE MY LORD; HIS FEATURES, HIS GAIT, HIS SMILE AND HIS GLANCES.



SHE WALKED TOWARDS THEM.

WHY! HE COULD BE MY SON!







PRADYUMNA TURNED TO RATI.



RATI AND PRADYUMNA THEN FELL AT THE FEET OF NARADA, KRISHNA AND RUKMINI.

RUKMINI THEN EMBRACED
THE YOUNG COUPLE.



THE CITY OF DWARAKA RESOUNDED WITH EXCLAMATIONS
OF JOY WHEN THE CITIZENS HEARD THAT THE LONG-LOST
PRADYUMNA HAD RETURNED WITH A WIFE.



RAMU TURNS DETECTIVE

AT THE BOOK-SHOP —



A LITTLE LATER —



LIKE RAMU KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN WHEN YOU BUY AMAR CHITRA KATHA. LOOK FOR THIS STAMP OF EXCELLENCE.



AMAR CHITRA KATHA ARE BROUGHT OUT BY PEOPLE

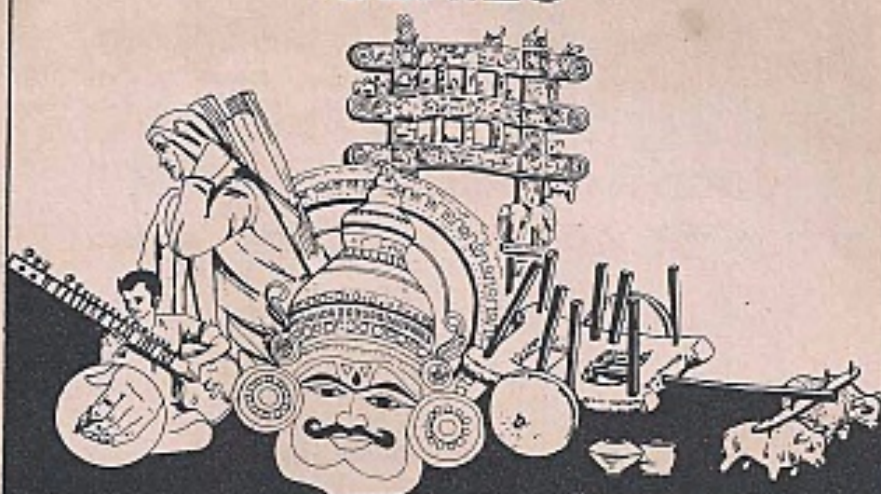
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